

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07681 051416Z

43 S
ACTION NEA-10

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R 051327Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5624

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 7681

NEA/EGY PLS PASS AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG EG
SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT

REF: CAIRO 6080

1. MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY UNDERSECRETARY MAHER ABAZA SPOKE WITH EMBOFF BY TELEPHONE AUGUST 5. ABAZA INFORMED US THAT MEETING OF BOARD OF ADVISORS FOR QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT WILL BE HELD IN CAIRO AUGUST 19. BOARD NOW CONSISTS OF THREE GERMAN, ONE FRENCH AND TWO EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS. ABAZA ANXIOUS QUOTE TO GET THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANT UNQUOTE. EMBOFF TOLD ABAZA THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REPLY YET FROM WASHINGTON TO MINISTER'S REQUEST OF JUNE 11. IN RESPONSE TO ABAZA'S REQUEST EMBOFF PROMISED TO SEEK STATUS REPORT ON REQUEST FOR AMERICAN BOARD MEMBER.

2. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS, FOR WHATEVER REASON, ARE CONTINUING TO PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON QATTARA PROJECT. SADAT HIMSELF DIRECTED THAT PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY BE SPEEDED UP FROM THREE YEARS TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR USES ASPECT OF THE PROJECT. IN GIVING REPLY TO MINISTER'S LETTER, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD FORECLOSE OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT ALTOGETHER. INSTEAD OF OFFERING NUCLEAR EXPERT, WE MIGHT OFFER EXPERT FROM TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY OR SIMILAR LARGE PROJECT TO BE BOARD MEMBER JUST TO KEEP OUR FINGER ON WHAT COULD

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TURN OUT TO BE MAJOR EGYPTIAN PROJECT.

MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Authority: johnsorg
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Disposition Reason:
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